



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt
Governor

Ted Stewart
Executive Director

James W. Carter
Division Director

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340
801-359-3940 (Fax)
801-538-5319 (TDD)

May 23, 1996

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *AG*

RE: Meeting Documentation, Uintah County Commission, Asphalt Ridge Mine, M/047/022, and Buena Ventura Resources Corporation, AROC #1 Mine, M/047/032, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Meeting: May 16, 1996
Location: Homeowners Association, Vernal Utah
Time of Meeting: 1330 - 1500
Participants: Lowell Braxton, Wayne Hedberg, Tony Gallegos, DOGM; Dan Lindsay, Ted (?) and Eric Schillie, Homeowners Association.

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss concerns over the Uintah County, BVRC operation and proposed new operation. Concerns by the homeowners association.

This meeting began with a general description by a representative of the Homeowners Association, describing their concerns over the current mine operations and also their concerns over the proposed operations. A big issue was a concern with the blasting. It seems that the Homeowners have felt a number of shock waves due to the blasting practice by Uintah County operations. These effects have been anything from small amounts of vibrations to pictures and other articles falling off the walls to cracked plaster and concrete. While we did not examine any of these cracks or the areas, these were the effects as related by the Homeowners Association.

The Homeowners also expressed concern over the lack of blasting protocol and lack of notification, or the insufficient notice prior to the blast. Homeowners were also concerned over the lack of restricted access. That is fencing, to prevent children from getting on site. When asked what measures would remedy the situation, it was thought that the posting of warning signs around the site, signs which indicated that blasting may occur within this area, and that blasting would be proceeded with a warning siren, or a series of warning sirens.

Another concern by the Homeowners was the truck traffic on the local roads. The Homeowners felt that at times these trucks were traveling in excess of the speed limits. This is a concern again, because of small children, pets, etc. from the residential area.



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As one possible measure to address these concerns Lowell pointed out that the coal regulations require a mine operator to follow certain blasting protocols. He suggested these protocols may be something that should be used or could be referred to in this case.

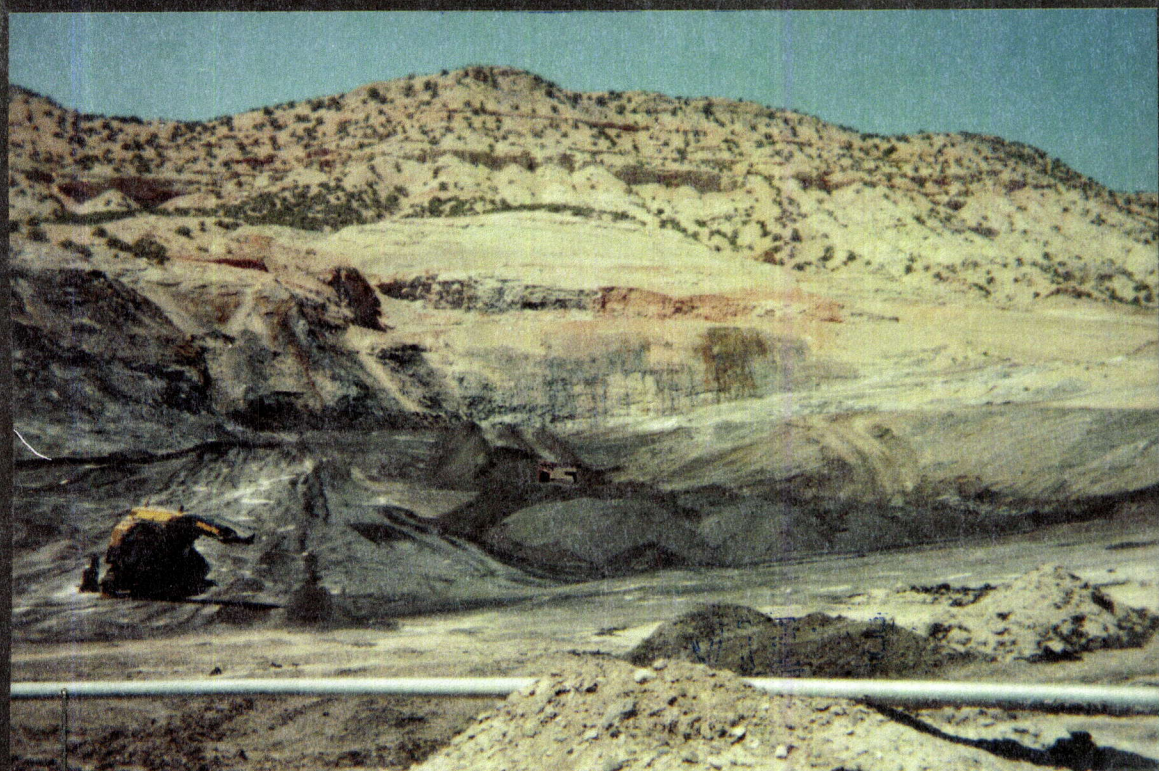
Notes: The meeting began with a general description of the current Mining and Reclamation Plan for Uintah County and BVRC. The Homeowners Association had reviewed a copy of Uintah County's mining and reclamation plan. However, the information they reviewed indicated the County would begin reclaiming some of the pit areas as early as 1995, when in fact, they were seeing no reclamation being practiced. It was pointed out to the Homeowners, that when the County had amended their permit within the recent years, the amendment covered the expansion to the north of the existing pit on a knob area, which is higher than the existing pit to the north. This amendment allowed the County to strip off overburden, place it someplace for use in future reclamation and then mine the asphalt deposit as necessary. Since they were expanding their operations, they had not yet begun reclamation on the knob area or the existing pit. It was pointed out that the existing plan did include some reclamation which already been performed by Uintah County, reclamation of slopes which are visible from the housing area; however, no reclamation of the pit has been undertaken at this time.

The mine reclamation plan deals with certain safety issues during and after operations. However, equipment safety, highwall safety, etc., during operations is mainly a function of Mine Safety and Health Administration. With regard to blasting agents, the minerals rules do not have any specific rules or guidelines describing blasting protocol. Regulations for transportation, storage and handling of explosives would be covered by another agency, rather than the Division. Controlling access to the site would, however, be a part of the mineral rules and regulations. The site should be maintained in an environmentally sound and safe manner.

Tasks to be Performed: Lowell was to provide a copy of the coal regulations for blasting to Eric Schillie. Tony was to check on the UPDES permit that Uintah County has. Tony to check on the sediment pond sizing. One of the issues raised by the Homeowners was that this sediment pond, which impounds water year round has become a great mosquito habitat. The Homeowners invited the Division to attend Homeowners Association meeting with the County Commissioners. This meeting is planned for June 11, 1996; 7:00 p.m. at the Valley's Edge Restaurant. Lowell indicated that he would try to attend. It is unknown at this time if other minerals staff members would be able to attend this meeting as well.

cc: Lowell Braxton, DOGM
Eric Schille, Homeowners Association
CO&BVRC.mtg

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BURE



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AROC